



Updated
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The Handover of Iraqi Sovereignty and the Reality of June 30th

June 30 Marks:

- the **transfer of sovereignty** from the Coalition forces to the representatives of the Iraqi people.
- the first day that the **new Transitional Administrative Law**, which includes a historic bill of rights, **becomes law of the land**. (Following the elections in early 2005 for a permanent government, a final constitution will be drawn and ratified.)
- the beginning **of diplomatic relations with Iraq**, which will mark the **end of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) and establishment of the U.S. Mission**.
- the beginning of a **new phase of economic, military, and political cooperation** between the United States, the Coalition, and the Iraqi civilian government.
- the commencement of the **first democratic government in Iraq, as well as the first Arab democracy** in the heart of the Middle East.
- the next step in the **development of Iraq's democracy and civil society**—including preparations for elections in early 2005.
- an opportunity for **Iraqis to rule themselves under the principles of freedom and liberty for the first time** in their modern history (the new Iraqi Interim Government began operating on June 1 after the Iraqi Governing Council decided to dissolve).
- the first day that **Iraqis will be responsible for determining the fate of Saddam Hussein and his henchmen**.
- the first day that the **Iraqis will chart the course** for their own political and economic future.

What June 30 Does NOT Represent:

- **The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq:** U.N. Security Council Resolution 1546, which was unanimously passed on June 8, allows U.S. soldiers to remain in Iraq under U.S. command as part of a multinational force.
- **The end of U.S. engagement and reconstruction efforts in Iraq:** The United States and its coalition partners will continue to maintain a military presence throughout Iraq to assist with the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq; the United States will transfer on-the-ground responsibility to a newly created American embassy; and the United States will continue to provide reconstruction monies and participate in massive reconstruction and reform activities.
- **The end of American interests in Iraq:** The United States has a vested interest in having Iraq become a functioning, stable democracy that benefits the Iraqi people, and also serves as a source of democratic influence on the peoples and leaders throughout the region. Additionally, U.S. and allied security interests will be greatly improved with a stable Iraq. A free, democratic Iraq denies terrorists a sanctuary and country of support.
- **The delay or postponement of transferring sovereignty to the Iraqi government:** To delay the handover would send the wrong message to the Iraqis about U.S. intentions, and would send a dangerous message to terrorists and extremists that violence and chaos have an effect on American resolve. The Iraqis hope soon to stand up to the terrorists on their own, but recognize that it is in their own vital national security interests to accept the Coalition's help in training and equipping the new Iraqi security forces.
- **The end of hostilities toward the U.S. presence in Iraq, or the end of insurgent and terrorist forces seeking to destabilize Iraq and deny democracy:** This requires a vibrant U.S. presence to work with the Iraqis to stabilize their country.